



Reecer Creek Levee Project

A long-term goal has been accomplished to mitigate flooding impacts to people and property while protecting the environment. Several projects have been a part of the plan to reduce flooding risk in West Ellensburg, including construction of two levees which would extend from Interstate 90 to University Way. Together the two levees comprise the Reecer Creek Levee Project.

Before



Dolarway Rd and Pott Rd., facing North, 2009

Bridge Before



Dolarway Rd. /Reecer Creek 28' bridge (before)

During Construction

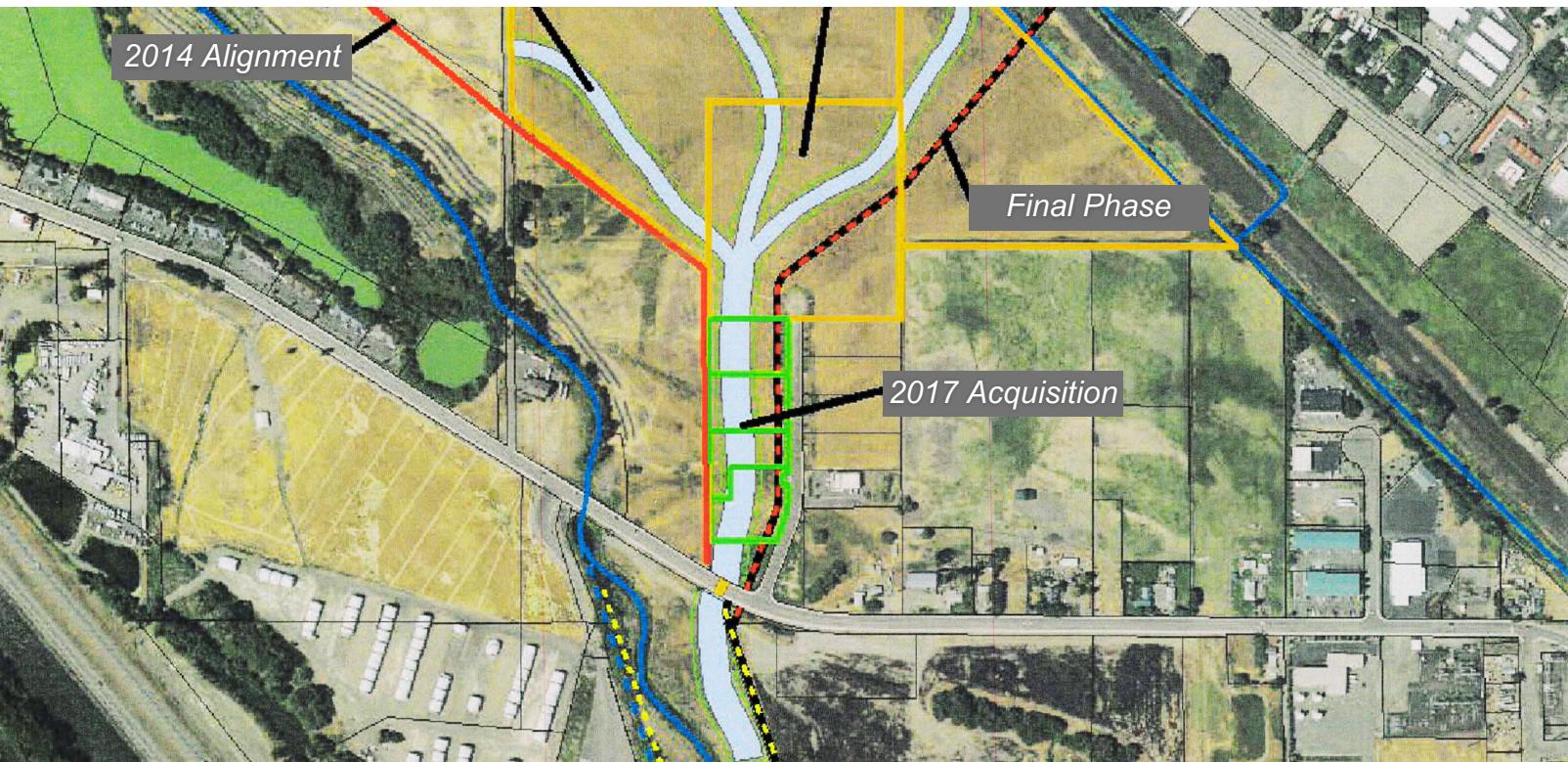


Placing gravel, Reecer Creek Levee Project, 2025

Dolarway Bridge After



Completed Dolarway Rd. /Reecer Creek Bridge, (after)



Project Partners

City of Ellensburg

The Yakama Nation
State of Washington Department of Ecology
Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District
Aspect Consulting
Hurst Construction

Multiple Phases of the Project

2010 The City completed construction of the lower levee south of Dolarway along with the newly constructed Reecer Creek stream channel (shown by the black and yellow dashed line in the diagram). This levee extended South to Interstate 90.

2012 The Dolarway Road project replaced an undersized at grade 28' bridge that spanned Reecer Creek with three elevated bridges that now span 90' across Reecer Creek.

2014 The City received a \$1.5 million dollar grant from the State Department of Ecology to extend the 2010 levee along the boundary of the Yakama Nation's property, north to University Way. Many fish enhancements and flood reduction projects were planned for that project. The Yakama Tribe requested that the City work with Trust for Public Lands to acquire 56 acres, north of Dolarway. This changed the alignment and move the connection from University Way toward the Burlington Northern Railway (BSNF), to someday allow for Whiskey Creek to join Reecer Creek for long-term fish enhancements.

2017 Approximately \$1.2 million of the 2014 Ecology grant was used to acquire five undeveloped business lots along Enterprise Way. Those business lots were needed for the new levee alignment which would terminate at the BNSF junction. The City was unsuccessful in acquiring additional funding for the 56 acres.

2020 The City issued \$5 million in stormwater revenue bonds to purchase the 56 acres and pay for construction of the new bridge, flood swales, and levee. Subsequently, permitting activities continued for several years, including extensive cultural resource review of the 56 acre site.

2023 An additional Dolarway Bridge was designed and built to convey the overflow waters from Reecer and Currier Creeks, and the flow channels downstream of Dolarway were constructed as part of this bridge project.

2025 The final phase of the Reecer Creek Levee Project was completed.